

Thank You Again For Your Support

Our letter to Elizabeth Abernethy, St. Petersburg Zoning Official, with copies to the City Council and the Mayor, has been sent. We have attached a copy of the final petition with all comments received for your review. We think you will find it most gratifying that so many of our neighbors agree that building huge, boxy homes in ONE is not acceptable.

Ask your Neighbors and Friends to Attend the Commission Meeting on June 7, 2017

In less than two weeks, the Development Review Commission (DRC) will meet and we expect that it will consider a series of amendments to the current zoning regulations. One of the most critical issues under consideration will address the size and mass of new construction by instituting a Floor Area Ratio (FAR). The DRC will thereafter submit its recommendations to the City Council. We will email the agenda for this meeting once we have it (probably the Friday before the meeting date).

So what is the FAR? It is a number when multiplied by the lot size produces the maximum amount of house floor area allowable on that lot. For example, on a 5,000 square foot lot in a district with a maximum FAR of 0.5, the floor area on the lot cannot exceed 2,500 square feet.

The City's proposal for a base FAR is 0.5. That is far too high; in fact, it is *higher* than the average (0.41) of all of the new construction in the Historic Old Northeast since 2008, when the current problem started. A FAR of 0.5 (plus bonuses-more on this concept in our next email update) far exceeds the current overall average of 0.32 in NT-3 districts, like the ONE north of 9th Avenue. The Neighborhood Review Committee has been studying this issue and has proposed a lower, base FAR of 0.4 (plus bonuses). While still too high, it is far better than the City's proposal.

Now is the time to step forward and make your concerns about overdevelopment in ONE known to the Commission and the City. **Attend** the June 7 Commission meeting. **Voice your opposition** to any FAR that will result in even larger houses. **Oppose** anything higher than a base FAR of 0.4.

If you cannot attend the meeting, **voice your concerns** in an email to Mayor Rick Kriseman <Mayor@stpete.org>, City Council Members <Council@stpete.org> and Liz Abernethy, Zoning Official <Elizabeth.Abernethy@stpete.org> – **and, please, send a copy** to us at support@HistoricOldNortheastForever.org

Consider an Historic Designation for your Block

Did you know that the 700 block of 18th Avenue NE has been listed as an Historic District in the St. Petersburg Register of Historic Places? This is the ultimate protection against inappropriate development. A resident of 18th Avenue has provided us with a step-by-step document describing the process. You can download it from our web site:

<http://historicoldnortheastforever.org/StepsinObtainingHistoricDesignation.pdf>

Stay in Touch – Stay Alert

The neighbors of the historic property at 505 11th Avenue NE oppose the demolition of that house so that *four, three story townhouses* can be constructed on a 60-foot lot. They are seeking support to oppose this oversized project when it arrives at the DRC. Please contact Catherine Landstra <cllvgm@gmail.com> and let her know you stand with her and her neighbors.

We will be monitoring action on the 209 13th Avenue N property and will alert you as more information becomes available. We will continue to supplement our petition to Ms. Abernethy so please continue to ask your friends and neighbors to support that petition.

If you hear of efforts to demolish historic properties in ONE and/or construct an oversized house, please let us know so we can share that information with the whole neighborhood.

Stay Active

We must now display strength in numbers *to stop the City from allowing any more of these awful, non-conforming developments in the Historic Old Northeast.*

Also, please continue to encourage your neighbors to send us their email addresses and notes of support so we may continue to build a strong grassroots neighborhood organization.